

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01

DRC-01 /156 W

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R 091510Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5944

USINT CAIRO

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGU: PFOR, PINS, LE, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-PLO TALKS

REF: CAIRO 70

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN LOCAL AN NAHAR ON JAN 6 MEETING BETWEEN EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMI AND PLO REPS IN CAIRO (REFTEL), FAHMI TOLD FEDAYEEN THAT BOTH GOE AND ALGERIA BELIEVE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE WOULD BE "STEP FORWARD TOWARD WINNING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" AND GAINING PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS AT GENEVA. PLO REPS REPORTEDLY PROMISED REFER HIS SUGGESTION TO FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP AND NOTIFY FOE OF PLO RESPONSE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. RESURRECTION BY EGYPTIANS OF THIS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE HAS PRODUCED PREDICTABLE REACTIONS IN FEDAYEEN CIRCLES HERE. PFLP'S
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AHMED YAMANI, IN JAN 7 SPEECH AT LARGE FEDAYEEN RALLY IN BEIRUT,

DENOUNCED IT AS ANOTHER PLOYI"BY THOSE WHO CALL ON U KC#

PARTICI-

PATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE. . . AND TO ABANDON TRUE PATH OF ARMED STRUGGLE" AND BETRAY FEDAYEEN GOALS. AT SAME TIME, LESS INTRAN-SIGENT FEDAYEEN LEADERS ARE TAKING MORE CAUTIOUS LINE, CONTENDING ONLY THAT FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE WOUL BE "PREMA-TURE". SUCH STEP, THEY MAINTAIN, MUST DEPEND ON "CIRCUMSTANCES OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE" AND "FURTHER COORDINATION WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT AT ALL LEVELS". THEY CONTEND THAT, IN ANY CASE, APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVT-IN-EXILE WOULD REQUIRE ACTION BY PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC)--NOW REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED CONVE IC CAIRO FEB 6--AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE WEST BANK AND GAZAN PERSONALITIES NOT AFFILIATED WITH FEDAYEEN MOVE-MENT.

3. COMMENT: (A) JUDGING FROM CONTINUING DISARRAY AMONG FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP ON QUESTIONS OF GOVT-IN-EXILE AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT OUTCOME OF FAHMI'S JAN 6 TALKS WITH PLO REPS WILL PROVE "FRUITFUL" FROM EGYPTIAN POINT OF VIEW. (WE ALSO DOUBTFUL THAT OFT-POSTPONED PNC SESSIONS WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE FEB 6.) PLOFATAH "MODERATES", WHILE CAREFUL NOT TO FORECLOSE THEIR OPTIONS OR RILE CERTAIN ARAB GOVTS. BY ADOPTING DIE-HARD OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENT EFFORT, REMAIN UNWILLING COMMIT THEMSELVES ON THESE SUBJECTS UNTIL THEY HAVE SEEN WHAT PROGRESS IS MADE AT GENEVA PEACE TALKS AND WHAT DIRECTION THOSE TALKS WILL TAKE ON ISSUES DEEMED VITAL FOR PALESTINIANS. IN MEANTIME, PROSPECT FOR PLO AGREEMENT ON ISSUES RAISED ANEW BY FAHMI APPEARSAS REMOTE AS EVER. (B) OCCURS TO US THAT GOE, SMARTING UNDER CHARGES THAT IT ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE UNILATERAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL,MAY SIMPLY BE ATTEMPTING SWEET-TALK FEDAYEEN INTO ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH SETTLEMENT EFFORT AS PART OF EFFORT TO PRESERVE IMAGE OF UNITED ARAB STAND AT GENEVA. IF SO, WE WOULD EXPECT FEDAYEEN, AS WELL AS SYRIA AND JORDAN, TO SEE THROUGH THIS EGYPTIAN PLOY. DECON 1/19/75. BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: BEIRUT 315 # AS RECEIVED.
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